

Labour campaign line: ready for concessions

By MARK SEGAL
Jerusalem Post Political Reporter

AVIV. — "Labour policies use the war to continue alignment, on the other hand, are ready to make far-reaching concessions for a settlement. This election campaign is laid down yesterday by Alignment campaign chairman Yehiel Amir when he said party workers here.

Mr. Amir rejected the call to open up the election lists, holding that it came mainly from those who had failed to be elected in the past. He declared that the Cabinet's composition will be decided only after the elections.

Bar-Lev defends interview with Hearst newsman

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Commerce Minister and former Chief of Staff Haim Bar-Lev told the Cabinet yesterday an interview with him published in Hearst newspapers in the U.S. had been intended as a background briefing — and that, anyway, it contained no criticism of other officers or of the Israel Defence Forces' battle plans on strategies.

Bar-Lev was responding to criticism levelled at him at last week's Cabinet meeting, which he did not attend.

He said only truncated and inaccurate sections of the interview had been published in the Israeli press.

He had been under the impression that the conversation with the Hearst correspondent was intended as background material, but he had nevertheless stressed that it would have to be approved by the Israeli military censor (it was). All the information that he had referred to in the conversation had been published previously in Israeli newspapers, he added.

Cabinet sources said no other minister referred to this subject at yesterday's Cabinet session.

The Attorney-General, Meir Shamgar, has drawn up tighter and more detailed regulations pertaining to press interviews by serving officers and these will be implemented shortly by the Chief of Staff, Mr. Shamgar told newsmen.

Mr. Shamgar was requested by the Chief of Staff to draw up such regulations in the wake of unauthorized interviews granted to "The New York Times" and "The Los Angeles Times" by Ahuf Arieli Sharon.

ki calls for resignation

Post Political Reporter

Maid, the Israel Party, yesterday called for the resignation of Golda Meir, and Yisrael Gali at the government, "to nearer."

It is running in the polls as part of Moked, a new party, also known as the "Gali Plan" and its intentions are "to compromise."

'S POSTBAG

MINISTRY has a new Fares supervisor the three Golan Druse during the Yom Kippur war, according to curriculum.

HOSPITALS have an emergency duty follows: on Sundays, Thursdays, Hadassah receive patients; on Wednesdays and Saturdays, Ichilov.

Carless day to begin only on December 16

By ERNIE MEYER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The one-day-a-week ban on private driving will not go into effect until Sunday, December 16, Transport Ministry spokesman Yehiel Amir said yesterday.

The delay is caused by difficulties in getting windshield stickers printed earlier, he said. About one million stickers (with the letters "A" through "V" for the six working days and "Shin" for Shabbat) will have to be printed. Although there are only about 250,000 cars, motorcycles and scooters in the country, a larger number is needed in order to make sure that every driver can get the letter he wants.

Stickers will be available at all post offices from Sunday, December 16. The Ministry had asked banks to assist with distribution through their branches, but they begged off, claiming they are too busy and understaffed, Mr. Amir said.

The maximum penalty for failing to affix a sticker or for breaking the regulation is IL3,000. But it is thought that courts will take emergency measures into consideration in judging cases brought before them.

Mr. Amir told The Post that his office is receiving dozens of letters asking about exemptions. He stressed that except for invalids and doctors' cars all private vehicles are covered by the ban. Commercial tenders up to two tons are considered private cars. Heavier trucks, taxis and buses are not included in the ban.

Drivers wanting to change their "dry day" for another may do so only once in six months, Mr. Amir said. This is in spite of the fact that there is no time limit on the ban and that it may be changed or abolished as circumstances dictate.

Institute re-opened

TEL AVIV. — Services are again available at the Institute for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Communication Difficulties at Mossad Abrams, 2 Rehov Yitzhak Elhanan. It was announced here.

The City announces that it has also reopened three community centres, 32 youth centres and 20 clubs affiliated with neighbourhood schools. Volunteer counsellors have replaced personnel called up for military service.

18 months' jail for stabbing father-in-law

TEL AVIV. — A man who stabbed his father-in-law in the wake of a long-standing family quarrel was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment yesterday, after the District Court here acquitted him of an attempted murder charge.

The accused, Yosef Mendelovitch, 29, of Bat Yam, told the court his father-in-law, Shmuel Hurak, had aggravated tension between him and his wife and had prevented him from seeing his own children. Hurak was a violent man, the defence claimed, and at one time had split his son-in-law's head open with a metal bar.

The court took into account a probation officer's report that Mendelovitch was a man of good character with a clean record. It acquitted him of the attempted murder charge and sentenced him to 18 months' imprisonment, plus 18 months suspended, for assault.

His sentence is retroactive to the date of his arrest, last May. (Nim)

Gov't offers easy terms to buyers of imported trucks

Jerusalem Post Staff

The 2,500 trucks urgently ordered from abroad to help ease the country's current transport crisis will be sold to approved buyers at a considerable tax reduction, and on easy terms, the Finance Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

The Treasury decided in consultation with the Transport Ministry that customs duty will be reduced from 55 per cent to 20 per cent on smaller trucks, from 35 per cent to 10 per cent on larger trucks, and from 25 per cent to 10 per cent on semi-trailers. The import tax will not be affected.

In addition, buyers approved by the Transport Ministry will be able to receive loans covering 85 per cent of the total cost of the truck, repayable over six years at 11 per cent interest. The credit arrangements will be made through the banks.

These incentives are intended to speed up the sale of the trucks and have them on the road as soon as possible, the spokesman said.

The need for speedy action was occasioned by the fact that 128 trucks were standing in port by last Thursday evening "with no takers" — and another 213 were on the way to Israel by sea at that time.

Importing companies had no compunction about ordering the vehicles, since the Government Emergency Economic Committee (Mela'h) has undertaken to acquire whatever was left in their hands.

But it is preferred to let the haulage companies and individual hauliers operate the lorries; and easier terms are offered in order to make the purchase possible.

The army, for its part, has released 1,000 mobilized trucks so far. Another 1,000 will follow after an urgent request by Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir — who telephoned the military authorities from abroad at the end of last week, to make his point.

'Africans don't realize gravity of breaking ties'

TEL AVIV. — Many African heads of state who have broken relations with Israel appear not to understand how grave a move this is, Foreign Ministry Assistant Director-General Ya'acov Shimoni said on Friday.

Mr. Shimoni, who was being interviewed on the Army Radio's weekly newsmagazine, said some African leaders had informed Jerusalem after breaking relations that the step was only a political move and that they remained friendly to Israel. A sign that they had a rather hazy idea of what the move means was the fact that several have since asked to be included in the Israeli-Arab "peace conference."

Apparently they thought that breaking relations constituted a ticket to the talks, Mr. Shimoni said.

Israel had known that a crisis was brewing in her relations with Africa, he said, though it had not expected the friendly African states to desert her as well. They had been growing opposing to Israel since 1970 when the Organisation of African Unity began adopting anti-Israel resolutions. But Israel had decided not to take the initiative and walk out of Africa on her own.

A factor in the break had been the vast funds the Arabs could dangle before the Africans — sums which Israel could not match. But though Israel may have put too much love, manpower and effort into Africa, the public should not mislead itself into thinking it had put in too much money.

Another African weakness the Arabs had exploited was the internal problems in such countries as Chad, where Libya promised to put down a rebellion it had been sponsoring. The Africans had broken relations to show African solidarity, but in had so far shown itself only in negative things such as opposition to Israel and South Africa. Where positive things like fighting the current sub-Saharan drought were concerned, African unity had nothing to show for itself. (Nim)



Two brothers embrace during a brief reunion at Lod Airport yesterday, when the one with the shaven head was repatriated from Egypt. The returning ex-prisoners of war were rushed away in buses, but this man's brother managed to get close enough to the bus window for a very short encounter. (AP radiophoto)

'Everyone suffers shock from the horrors of war'

By MACABEE DEAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Every normal person goes into a state of shock — ranging from mild to severe — from the horrors of war. And everyone needs help, often psychiatric help, in understanding the situation and in facing up to the future.

This was stated by Professor Henrich Wijsenbeek, medical director of the Gaba Psychiatric Hospital, who sent a 10-man team, composed of psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers, into the nearby Bellinson Hospital to talk to each one of the 650 wounded soldiers who passed through the hospital. About 130 are still hospitalized there, most of them for continuing surgical treatment or for rehabilitation.

"Our purpose," he stresses, "has not only been to deal with existing causes of war-induced neurosis, but also to talk to wounded soldiers as a sort of preventive psychiatric measure, so that if a neurosis develops in the future it will be much milder and the man will be better equipped to handle it."

Although this system of visiting wounded soldiers was initiated during the Six Day War, it was only put into its comprehensive framework during the recent war. Prof. Wijsenbeek's chief assistants during this period were Dr. Benjamin Meir, Dr. Nathan Durst (both of Gaba) and Mrs. Hanna David, a social worker from Bellinson, who did "splendid work, for she brought to each case not only her past experience, her training and her intellectual discipline, but also an unusual emotional empathy."

FAMILIES SUFFER

"When talking about war shock," Prof. Wijsenbeek notes, "I would like to point that not only the wounded soldiers but their families, their children, and even the hospital nurses suffered from it. And first and foremost among those who felt it, were the members of the psychiatric team themselves."

One reason was the difference in approach. As a rule, the psychiatrist deals with "selected" patients, and in a relaxed, more individual fashion. This time, at the Bellinson Hospital it meant visiting "residents" after patient, bed after bed, in a rapid fashion so we could see as many as possible as fast as possible without neglecting anyone. We could not know who needed the most help until we had talked to everyone. Often, a young soldier, a "hero type", more often than not from a kibbutz, would deliberately refuse our services. But a few days later, he would take the initiative in pouring out his emotional troubles.

The second "shock" the psychiatrists got, Dr. Durst recalls, was the fact that they were dealing with an entirely different type of patient. "We are used to older persons with a specific type of problem. Suddenly we were faced with youngsters, who had gone through living hell and whose minds were tortured with vague and incomprehensible nightmares. The young react to death, especially violent death, in a much different fashion from the older patients we were used to. And if the wounded soldier was on the critical list and faced death, it was difficult to make contact with such a young man, who only a few days before had been full of bursting vitality."

The nurses in the various departments were also often deeply troubled. They had been used to a variety of patients, of all ages, men and women, suffering from a variety of medical problems.

"Suddenly, the wards were filled with young men, each and every one suffering from battle wounds or burns. But more important than this each nurse suddenly saw the soldier as her brother, her future husband, as a member of her family. This was not a youngster badly hurt in a traffic accident. This was a young man who had been badly hurt fighting for his country, fighting for each and every nurse. The nurse-patient relationship had suddenly to be re-oriented to adjust to this new reality. The nurses also faced their share of emotional problems."

DEEP EMOTIONAL UPSET

As for the soldiers themselves, the psychiatric team found that some of the wounded had no statistical survey, but "yet been badly hurt by the war, and those who suffered from deep emotional problems which required extensive help. The others suffered much less. In addition, there were a few soldiers who were hospitalized only for their emotional problems. They had not been wounded."

One thing which emerged from the psychiatric visits was that "there was a big difference, as a rule, between the soldiers wounded at the very outbreak of the war, and those wounded a few days later."

The first group were much more severe cases. "They may have kept quiet, but they were depressed, and often broke down. But this was not the case with the second group, the reservists, who knew what was ahead of them. Perhaps one reason is that those on the front lines when the war broke out were much younger than the reservists who came up to relieve and help them. The latter had already faced some problems in life, often they had fought in a previous war."

The psychiatric team also extended aid to the families of the wounded. "The family will play a critical role in the future of the wounded soldier after he is discharged," Dr. Durst says, and this "family must be instructed in its future tasks. The wounded soldier, even one with several amputations, must find his way back to his new life. The family is his anchor."

Strangely enough, one of the problems that face the wounded soldiers was created in the hospital itself. It was the transition from "great

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New medical techniques saved soldiers; low infection rate

Jerusalem Post Staff

The percentage of infections developing in war wounds has been remarkably low, according to Dr. Yitzhak Moor, deputy medical director of Bellinson Hospital, who was acting director during the war. "One reason is that the soldiers received excellent treatment as soon as they were wounded, and the field, including antibiotics which prevented any infection from developing."

He noted that the "bullet-proof" jackets helped not only in preventing shrapnel and bullet wounds, but also in preventing burns on those parts of the body they covered. As for ugly scars resulting from wounds or burns, the percentage was lower than ever before, due in large measure to swift reconstructive surgery.

The physiotherapists deserve special mention," Dr. Moor says. "They worked tirelessly with the soldiers, getting them to exercise muscles which otherwise would have become useless."

Or the 130 soldiers still in Bellinson, some are being kept there for future reconstructive or plastic surgery and others for rehabilitation.

New medical techniques which saved the lives of many soldiers wounded in the Yom Kippur War were described this week by a panel of doctors at the Hadassah University Hospital, headed by Prof. Kalman J. Mann, director-general of the Hadassah Medical Organization, to 67 Hadassah leaders from all parts of the U.S.

One of these techniques was a temporary cover in burns cases till the patients grew their own skin.

The pigskin cover falls off and has to be constantly replaced — but it keeps the patient alive while his own skin cover develops. It explained a plastic surgeon on the panel.

Another change that made a great deal of difference was that teams of surgeons — general, orthopedic, plastic, chest and ophthalmological — worked simultaneously on soldiers with serious multiple injuries, instead of consecutively. Mobile X-ray equipment and laboratories were used in the Emergency Ward to do on-the-spot investigations instead of patients being taken to the various departments. Grafts of main arteries and veins saved many limbs. Shrapnel fragments in eyes were located, identified and removed by the use of ultrasonic techniques. Psychiatrists worked with patients from the time they became conscious instead of entering the medical picture only after the surgeons had finished their work.

Prof. Mann emphasized that medical success was due above all to the reorganization of services so as to have doctors in the front lines giving immediate emergency treatment, and of field hospitals handling the wounded immediately thereafter. This had resulted in many losses among doctors, but had saved hundreds of soldiers.

The Hadassah orientation tour is led by Mrs. Bea Usdan, chairman of Hadassah's Tourism Department.

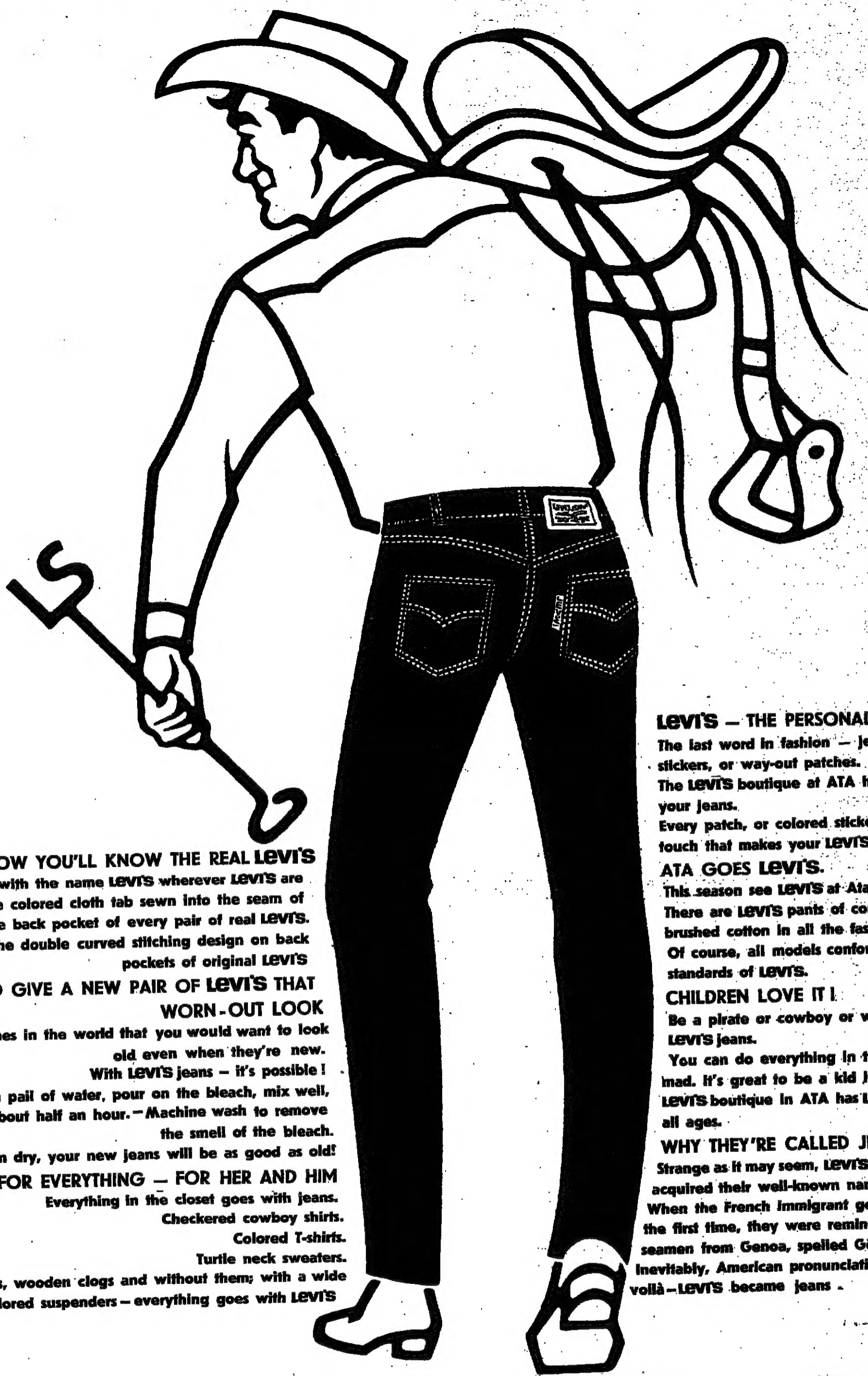
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Wanted: An information policy

THE appointment of a new member of the General Staff, an Officer in Charge of Information, is a new post in the Army, has passed without attracting much attention, despite its importance.

Information policy is one of the subjects that should be most carefully studied in the Army investigation of all aspects of the Yom Kippur war that is now in progress. This will apply more especially to how information policy was formulated and implemented during the first days of the war, when there was much confusion and the public had a feeling that it was not being given a true picture of the situation. There were some bitter reactions from soldiers on the two fronts who were desperately holding their positions against the massive enemy onslaught, while their transistors brought them an Army Spokesman proclaiming victories. Material issued by the Army Education Officer was also questioned as to content and at times veracity.

It became abundantly clear that a dangerous credibility gap was created between the home front and the Army, despite the total and justified confidence that has always in the past been placed in the Army Spokesman. The new O.C. Information will have to re-organize the Army information apparatus for there were errors of omission and commission, and it was found wanting by Israeli and especially by foreign correspondents. The emergency was not yet over, and accurate information may still be very important.

If the Army has taken quick action to deal with its information tools, the government has so far done nothing to re-organize its own information services. During the war, the Information Centre almost ceased to function; the Government Press Office performed its limited technical duties as best it could; the Foreign Ministry handed over the briefing of almost 900 foreign correspondents who streamed to Israel to cover the war to the Army Spokesman.

Radio and television remained the chief tools of government information.

However, according to the Chairman of the Broadcasting Authority, radio and TV also came under the overall supervision of the Army Spokesman's Office during the war, so that there was no central civilian direction or planning of information. This in turn placed our overseas press and information officers in a difficult position for the lack of any clear cut directives.

It is not too late for the government to re-examine its own information policy and apparatus in view of the experience gathered in the war. The government might make a start by its turn appointing a Minister or a senior civil servant as its spokesman, to coordinate the activities of the Ministerial spokesmen, and primarily those of the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs, and the Army.

As Israel enters a crucial stage in its political struggle, an information policy that is both systematic and imaginative should receive top priority. The 1970 re-organization of the information services, which transferred the responsibility for dealing with foreign correspondents in Israel and for information abroad to the Foreign Ministry, and the home information services to the Ministry of Education and Culture, did not function satisfactorily in the war. One of the reasons may be that neither of the two parallel bodies now has sufficient authority or sufficiently qualified personnel.

Of course, an adequate information policy depends first of all on a clear government policy. But even while there are at least two, if not more, views in the government, the instruments can be overhauled and prepared against a time when clear decisions have been reached.

There is a continued need to explain our position and neutralize Arab propaganda. The climate of opinion abroad may become more important to us than ever in the past.

WHEN PLISETSKAYA LET the TRUTH OUT

"Only the lowly can leave the paradise of Russia." That is the title given by "The Times" of London to this leader-page article by that paper's distinguished columnist, BERNARD LEVIN, in which he writes that what the Soviets cannot give their honoured citizens is freedom — and that is what the Soviets cannot permit them to seek abroad.

IN the colour magazine of last Friday's "Daily Telegraph," there was an extraordinary interview with Maya Plisetskaya, one of the greatest ballerinas in the world. It was extraordinary because at the end of the interview, Mr. George Feiler, did something that would have been in all ordinary circumstances inexcusable and would have rendered him liable to be shunned by decent men and women for the rest of his life. And yet the circumstances were not extraordinary, at all — although I would in no circumstances whatever have done what he did — I find myself unable to condemn him without reservation for it.

Since whatever harm Mr. Feiler's article may have done has now been done, and cannot be made worse by comment on it, I feel free to say here, for those who did not see the article, what his action was. Towards the end of the time Mr. Feiler spent with the ballerina, the party watchdog who had been with them throughout — his job being to spy on the conversation for his masters, lest Plisetskaya should be tempted to tell the truth about life in Soviet Russia — left the room to go to the lavatory. In the few minutes that he was gone, Plisetskaya exploded in tears and rage, and told the truth about life in Soviet Russia with such passionate vehemence and such complete absence of qualification that the few paragraphs in which Mr. Feiler recorded her outburst bear the mind more than many whole books on the subject.

The trigger for her outburst was her disgust and shame at being compelled to sign a statement condemning Israel and declaring her whole-hearted approval of Soviet support for the Arab cause. She had had no choice, she had been officially told that she would not be allowed to travel abroad any more (such travel is the one hope of being able to breathe freely that any Soviet citizen has) if she did not sign — and let none who has not experienced the pressures of a totalitarian society condemn her for giving in. But for a brief moment, as the interviewer sat transfixed, she reared at the empire of lies and oppression in which she lives, the gangsters who run it, the dirt that it compels its finest people to do upon themselves.

"Not one man or woman in 200 million can take a free breath under Soviet rule," she cried; "every word here is a lie. Big or little, depending on their needs... I hate them!" Then

the spy came back into the room and she pulled herself together.

And all this Mr. Feiler faithfully recorded, saying: "No one need convince me that she may have to answer for what follows. I report it — with some tempering — because to say nothing seems worse in the long run, for her as well as for everyone else in Russia; everyone else on earth."

Now I do not think he has the right to take such a risk with the liberty of life of another human being, yet perhaps we are moving into a new phase where those who suffer under Soviet barbarism are concerned, a phrase in which we must "do a great right, do a little wrong." I don't know; I would not do as Mr. Feiler did, and yet in a fearful way I am glad he did it.

As it happens, Plisetskaya's outburst fell with a grim irony into a grim situation that is very close indeed to her. Valery Panov, the great dancer of the Leningrad Kirov Ballet, who has been enduring the unendurable ever since he and his wife applied to leave Soviet Russia, is, as you read this, in the 18th day of a hunger strike which seems likely to end in his death if it does not end in the release of him and his wife, Galina. The Panovs, at least, have made it clear that they want — indeed, it is their last best hope — as much public attention as possible drawn to their plight in the world outside.

Vigil in London

In London there has for some days now been a notable response to their plea from the world of the arts in Britain. A permanent vigil is maintained outside the Soviet Embassy, and the banners of every country have either signed the appeal to free the Panovs or taken part directly in the watch.

When such men as Laurence Olivier, the least publicly political of artists, and Paul Scofield, who has always jealously guarded his private identity, are to be seen there on guard, when the great names of the world of ballet — Ashton, Rambert, Dolin, Linden — are inscribed on what is now an immense international roll-call of honour, when even the last apologists for Soviet tyranny have fallen silent, it is clear that the plight of the Panovs has become a symbol and a touchstone for the world. (And yesterday the president of Equity sent a telegram of sympathy to the Panovs on behalf of the organization's council

and 20,000 members; and the council is now to be asked to "black" all professional visits to the Soviet Union by Equity members, and to ban all cooperation with Soviet ballet and theatrical companies which visit Britain.)

It is not difficult to see why the Soviet authorities feel that the persecution of Valery Panov, even unto death, and of his wife, is preferable to letting them go, and why even the immense international condemnation of their barbarism must be accepted.

First, there is the general Soviet rule that anybody wishing to leave Russia must suffer the extremes of privation and persecution before being allowed to do so; for it those who were thinking of doing so can see what happens to those who apply — immediate dismissal from all jobs, relentless hounding by the state, vilification, imprisonment, beatings — it means that an exceptional level of courage has to be reached before an application will be made. (A new refinement of cruelty has just been adopted in the case of Ida Nudel, one of those who have not only applied for an exit-permit but risked everything including the aim hope of being allowed to go, to help collect and disseminate information about the emigrant movement. She has been arrested and beaten, and when she recently went to hospital for treatment for a heart condition, she saw on her papers the classification "alcoholic"; the "doctor" insisted that she had more than once been brought in drunk. She does not, in fact, drink at all, and the story is a total fabrication; but such classification gives the authorities yet another method of putting her away. She has now fled from Moscow.)

But in the case of the Panovs there is an added reason for the Soviet authorities to be adamant. If those who have attained eminence, esteem and affluence within the Soviet system wish to leave, it is very difficult indeed to maintain the line that everything in the Soviet Union is rougher as it will be found in Paradise. A few malcontents on the fringes of society, a few wretched Jews, a few who wish to grow rich by peddling on the down-trodden workers of the capitalist world — these are comparatively easy to let go, once they have been thus categorized.

But the Panovs have got the highest rewards, such as they are, that the Soviet state can offer. If they want to leave none the less, the fault must lie in the Soviet state. If comfort and renown are not enough, the missing ingredient must be freedom. And freedom is the one thing that the Soviet state cannot permit its citizens to have within its borders, or to seek outside. That is why Valery Panov will probably die soon. And it is also why Maya Plisetskaya, in the five minutes during which she was alone with her Western interviewer, broke down and told the truth.



Valery and Galina Panov at home.

Mr. Panov's plight and Mr. Wilner's complaint

Valery Panov's courageous fast has now lasted eighteen days — as long as the Yom Kippur War.

He is not trying to change his country's policies, as Jan Palach did tragically in Czechoslovakia, when he burnt himself to death. Panov is not claiming the right to take any Russian goods, civilian or military, out of the Soviet Union.

All he wants to do is what 100,000 Israelis do per annum — when they board a plane in Lod airport, or a ship in Haifa harbour, without ever telling the Israeli authorities whether they intend to come back or not.

He wants to activate a clause in the Declaration of Human Rights, which entitles him to move his own body freely from one portion of the earth's surface to another. He simply desires to be one of the ticket-carrying multitude who through the world's international airports every day of the year.

Rakah, the New Communist Party of Israel, has published

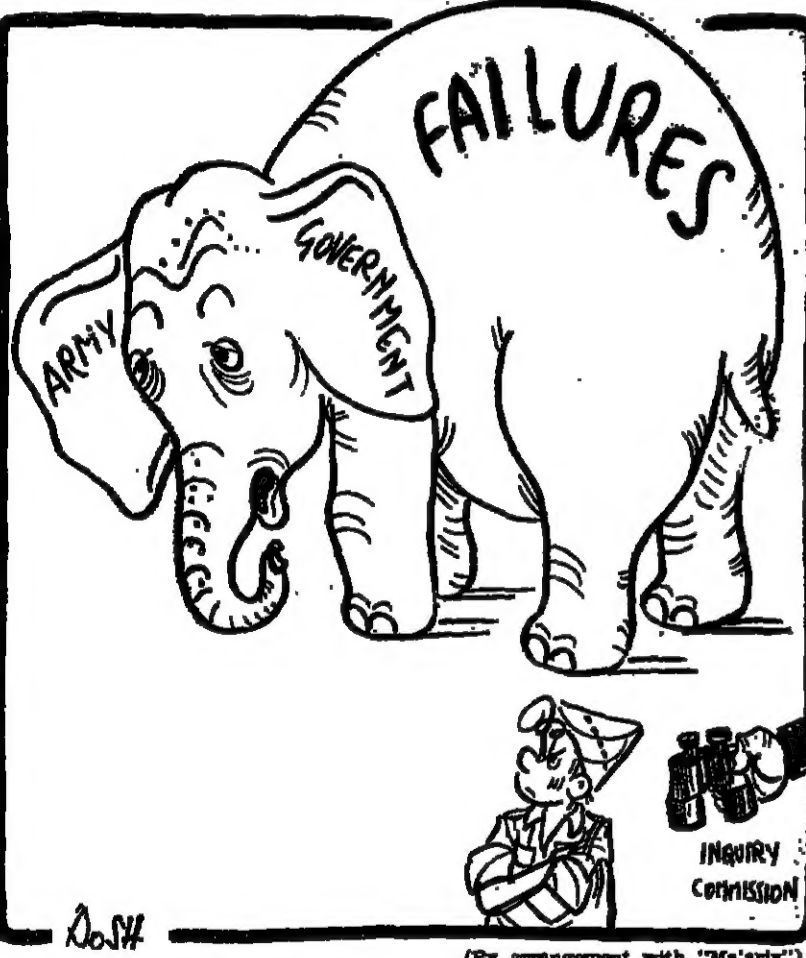
big advertisements in the press saying that the Soviet Union is a peace-loving state, solicitous for the welfare of mankind. I have heard Mr. Wilner declare the Knesset (in answer to the question from the floor) that Russia cares more for the interests of the Israeli people than does the Israeli Government.

Yet Wilner, an anti-Zionist party leader — was allowed the "reactionary" government of the country he inhabits to let a travel agency in Tel Aviv last week to perfect freedom, buy a ticket to Moscow.

Perhaps Rakah would put in another advertisement, explaining why the Soviet Union lets Valery Panov — an excentric ballet dancer — starve himself almost to death rather than grant him the same simple privilege.

Are Panov's sufferings a necessary part of the USSR's peace policies, that serve the interests of the Israeli people more than does the Israeli Government?

DAVID KRIVIN



ISRAEL PRESS On the inquiry

Yesterday's editorials discuss the question of convening an inquiry commission to investigate faults and errors connected with the war.

Davar (Histadrut) writes: "The primary task of the commission investigating the faults will be to determine the facts concerned with the preparedness of the Israel Defence Forces on the eve of the war. This includes such questions as the availability and assessment of intelligence information, mobilization of the reserves and its timing, deployment of the regular forces, contingency plans for the possibility of an enemy attack and the measure of their implementation, as well as issues of stocks and maintenance of armaments and ammunition. The inquiry itself must be conducted in camera, but its findings and conclusions, in so far as they are not

harmful from a security point of view, must be made public. As for the commission's composition, its members must be of acknowledged public standing whose objectivity is above suspicion. It should be borne in mind that a blameless composition of the commission is no less important and possibly more so than the speed of its appointment."

Omner (Histadrut) comments: "A judicial inquiry commission, by virtue of its fuller authority, is better able to investigate the faults. The advantage of a public inquiry commission, however, lies in the fact that it can conclude its work faster. The most important point is the personal composition of the commission. Its members must be objective and of the highest integrity and known to be independent of any government or opposition body."

Egypt's War Minister describes his war plan and what went wrong

CAIRO (UPI). — War Minister Gen. Ahmed Ismail said yesterday the resumption of the war "seems to me quite possible, and at any time."

In an interview with "Al-Ahram," editor Mohammed Hassanein Heykal, Ismail said Egypt's troops "are not only safe and capable of fighting, but are also firm in their positions on the Suez Canal's east bank."

Ismail is Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian and Syrian armed forces. His interview with "Al-Ahram" was his first since the war. "I have no doubt that we realized a major victory," Ismail said. "I consider it a double victory because I managed to safeguard my troops despite the flagrant American intervention in the battle."

Of the Israeli offensive across the Canal, Ismail said, "I concede that our picture of what was going on was shaken for several reasons... Our first reports on the operation indicated that a small number of amphibious tanks were infiltrating and the local commander estimated that he could destroy them quickly."

"That was one reason. Another reason is that the flow of information was interrupted due to a re-shuffle of responsibilities of some commanders," he said.

Other reasons mentioned by Ismail were: "The infiltrating Israeli tanks managed to hide in a fruit tree grove. The Israelis fought desperately to establish a presence on the west bank in order to force the Egyptians to withdraw their forces from Sinai."

The Israelis knew that a ceasefire was coming and that it would

help the success of the "grave risk" they were taking.

Ismail said that President Anwar Sadat and he were the only men who knew the date for the war before the countdown started one month previously. The secret was kept so close, he said, that some of the vanguard troops knew of it only 48 hours before fighting began on October 6.

General Ismail said that the timing of the fighting remained a subject for discussion with Syria until a few days before the war. The Syrians wanted to start at daybreak because of the direction of the sun while Egypt, for the same reason, wanted to start at sunset.

General Ismail said he informed the Syrians on September 30 of the codename of the war. This was "Badr" after the first battle between the Prophet Mohammed and his opponents about 1,400 years ago.

Moonlit night

General Ismail said the day was chosen because of certain advantages to Egypt in it. These were: a moonlit night during the crucial hours, a suitable current in the Suez Canal to help the crossing of the Egyptian troops to the east bank, and the fact that the Israelis were not expecting an Egyptian attack during the fasting month of Ramadan and were busy with their forthcoming general elections. He did not mention Yom Kippur.

Zero hour was fixed following a visit to Damascus on October 2 for talks with President Hafez al-Assad, who approved the plan, the general said.

Asked whether his troops were slow in advancing in Sinai in the

first days of the war, Ismail said: "To me it was not a question of opportunities but calculations. Even if opportunities seemed available, I did not want to be adventurous."

"We began the operation under the protection of the famous (Sam) missile network," he said. "In order to advance farther, and regardless of the opportunities, I had to ensure that my troops had the necessary protection."

"I had to give my armour the chance to enter (cross to the east bank) and then give the same chance to the anti-aircraft missiles," he said.

Ismail said the Egyptians, however, had to stage a wide-scale offensive "sooner than the appropriate time" in order to ease the pressure on the Syrians.

Some of the troops taking part in the offensive were outside the range of the Egyptian Sam missiles, he said. After forcing the Israelis to divert part of their troops and air force to Sinai, the Egyptians fell back to the Canal's east bank to strengthen their bridgeheads, he said.

Ismail gave the following account of the October 6 developments when the Egyptians and Syrians launched their offensive: 200 Egyptian planes and 100 Syrian planes delivered the first blow to Israeli positions. Then 2,000 big guns opened fire, and 8,000 troops later crossed the Canal in rubber dinghies "and by other methods."

The most difficult moments were those preceding the entry of the tanks in the battle, particularly in the Canal's southern sector," he said.

The difficulty in that sector, he said, was due to the fact that the sand dunes on the east bank were deeper than the Egyptians thought, and in certain areas were 200 metres thick.

But in the initial 24 hours of the war, he said, the Egyptians had five divisions on the Canal's east bank. "This is unprecedented in the history of wars," he said.

Ismail refused to divulge the volume of Egyptian losses but said they were less than Egyptian losses in the Six Day War.

ECONOMIST

November 17, 1973
ARAB OIL PRESSURE:
THE WORLD IS AGAINST IT
IT TAKES MORE THAN
THE U.N. FORCE TO
POLICE AN AGREEMENT
THE CHANCES OF
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE
EAST
DON'T PUSH GOLDA...
THE PALESTINIANS;
WHAT NOW?

BRONFMAN'S AGENCY LTD.

Readers' letters

Resist American pressure

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — I feel it is important that all Israel's people and leaders realize the nature of American pressure on Israel. It is, in fact, only as real as Israel's let it be.

Take comfort from the fact that ordinary people the world over, as well as America's Congress, are on the side of Israel even if governments submit to the oil blackmail. Israel can draw strength from this in the diplomatic fields. America does not

want to see Israel forced into an unreal and insecure peace: Israel has only to stand firm and no government in America will bring any real pressure to bear. The fate of the men captured by the Arabs need not be sacrificed to diplomatic pressure from any source. Any stand that Israel takes to save the prisoners, including not feeding Egypt's Third Army or the resumption of fighting, may not win any government's approval but it will bring any sanctions either.

American pressure on Israel is more apparent than real, while her hold over the Soviet Union is very real indeed — Russia can gain considerably more from detente than from Middle East influence and she knows it.

ROBERT BARNETT

London, November 7.

הכרזת כפילים
2:00

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